GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4008
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2014
SHORTAGE OF STAFF IN POST OFFICES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Head Post Offices and Sub-Post Offices in the country along with the employees, both permanent and temporary, working therein, State-wise;

(b) whether there is a shortage of staff in these post offices and if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has received representations from Gramin Dak Sewaks (GDS) regarding their grievances including reinstating terminated GDS and permanent absorption in the Department; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) There are 810 Head Post Offices and 24,683 Sub Post Offices in the country. The permanent employees in Department of Posts are 1,98,441 and state-wise details are attached in Annexure I. For initial two years of service, an employee remains on probation and subsequently he is confirmed depending upon clearing the relevant examination / training

(b) No, Madam. All cadres in the Department have fixed Sanctioned Strength and whenever any posts in any of the cadre falls vacant due to promotion, retirement, death, deputation or leave, duties of such posts are managed by redistribution and combination of duties in Post Offices for ensuring smooth delivery of postal services till the time these posts are filled up on regular basis in the Circle concerned. Filling up of such vacancies is an on-going process in the Department as per the provisions contained in the Recruitment Rules of each cadre, provided the total Working Strength should not exceed the Sanctioned Strength of a particular cadre.

(c) & (d) Yes, Madam, the Government has received representations from Gramin Dak Sewaks (GDS) from time to time regarding wage structures, emoluments and other service conditions. However, the Department has not received any representation for reinstatement of terminated GDS. As regards permanent absorption of GDS in the Department, it is mentioned they are engaged for providing basic postal facilities in rural areas, where setting up a Departmental Post Office is not justified due to less traffic/ work-load. They work for 3-5 hours in a Branch Post Office depending upon the work-load. The terms and conditions of GDS are distinct from regular Government employees. The GDS are governed by Gramin Dak Sewaks (Conduct & Engagement) Rules, 2011, which are non-statutory in nature and have not been framed under Article 309 of the Constitution. The Supreme Court of India in the Judgement pronounced in 1977 in the case of P. K. Rajamma has held that though the GDS are holders of civil posts, but they are outside the regular civil service. Hence, GDS cannot be absorbed in the Department. The Government has introduced several welfare measures for GDS from time to time to improve their service conditions. A list of some of these measures is given in Annexure-II.